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## **DRAFT Sullivan Creek Project Negotiation Team Sixth Mediated Session**

On May 6 and 7, 2009, the sixth mediated session of the settlement negotiation team for the surrender of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) license for the Sullivan Creek Hydroelectric Project met in Newport, Washington. The negotiation team, which is made up of a mix of state and federal agencies, non-governmental organizations, the Pend Oreille Public Utility District, local officials, and representatives of the local community, is working with the help of the U.S. Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution to find options for resolving the issues for surrender of the Project license.

At the sixth mediated session, Sullivan Lake dominated the discussion, as Sullivan Dam will remain in place. The team reviewed the information generated by the work groups and looked at a variety of options for lake fill rates and drawdown dates that could meet the needs and interests of all stakeholders, such as summer recreation, fisheries and fishing (in the lake and the streams), cabin owners, water storage, economics, and water quality. The team will also be exploring sources of funding for special enhancement projects.

The issues to be addressed are complex and require a lot of research and work by technical staff. All of the team members are also currently involved in work groups and research efforts. Field studies are now being conducted on wetlands, kokanee spawning, the overall fisheries and habitat issues, and lake and stream ecology. Team members are intent on ensuring that they have all the right data to create an informed agreement that will work with all interests. A public information meeting is being planned for some time this summer when the team has enough information to be able to provide a substantive update to the public.

The next mediation session is scheduled for June 3-5, 2009, at the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife office in Spokane, Washington. The public is welcome to attend the mediation sessions if they are willing to sign the Observer Agreement. Anyone wishing to attend should notify Gail Brooks at [brooks@ecr.gov](mailto:brooks@ecr.gov) or (520) 901-8532 so that she can plan the room logistics. A copy of the Observer Agreement is available on the project website and upon request.

Information on the project is available at the project's website: <http://sullivancreek.ecr.gov>.

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